Expert Group on usage of surplus rain water

†*232. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of all efforts 85 per cent rain water goes without being used into the sea;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have neither formulated any concrete programme for water harvesting nor managed any substanital achievement in the direction of reconstruction of local rivers, ponds and 'Johars';

(c) if not, the details of the efforts and the achievements made in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to constitute a high level expert group in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. Utilization of water for diverse purpose is made through various schemes including major & medium projects and minor schemes, both surface & ground water. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM only. 629 BCM of water is being utilized for diverse purposes. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Government conceive, plan and implement major, medium & minor schemes for utilization of water resources. Storage capacity of about 213 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various project under construction is about 76 BCM. Further, the State Government have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM.

(d) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.